

## RESTORATION OF OLD FORT VANCOUVER STOCKADE

JANUARY 28, 1925.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed

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Mr. JAMES, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following

### REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 10472]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 10472) to provide for restoration of the old Fort Vancouver stockade, having had the same under consideration, reports it back to the House with amendments and recommends that as amended the bill do pass.

The amendments are as follows:

Page 1, lines 3 and 4, strike out the words "and directed to restore or rebuild," and insert in lieu thereof the words "to permit and cooperate in the restoration or rebuilding."

Page 2, lines 1 to 5, strike out all of section 2.

In its amended form, the bill authorizes the Secretary of War to cooperate in effecting the restoration of old Fort Vancouver stockade, a structure of historical interest to the Pacific Northwest. Authorization of an appropriation for the work is stricken from the bill for the reason that the desired restoration is not in furtherance of any military or other Government need, hence is not compatible with the present policy of retrenchment in Government expenditure.

Restoration of Fort Vancouver stockade is desired by various societies and private citizens who are cooperating with the Fort Vancouver Centennial Corporation in perfecting preparations for a celebration to be held at Vancouver, Wash., from July 4 to August 4, 1925. The rebuilt stockade structure will be an important feature of this celebration.

The Secretary of War advises the committee that—

The old stockade is shown by maps to have been a palisaded rectangle 700 feet long and 300 feet wide, with a timber bastion at the northwest corner. Within this inclosure there were a total of 23 log buildings devoted to storehouses, living quarters, shops, etc. \* \* \* All vestiges of the old Fort Vancouver stockade have disappeared. \* \* \* The War Department has no objection to the enactment of the proposed bill \* \* \*.

Vancouver, Wash., is a point of great historical interest. Fort Vancouver was established in 1825 by the British Hudson's Bay Co. It was the first permanent white settlement in what is now the State of Washington and the most important outpost of civilization in "the Oregon country." As it was first in possession of the British and passed from them to the United States, it symbolizes the long contest between the two Nations for possession of the northwest frontier region, and in a sense marks the important historical fact of the settlement of that dispute by peaceful means.

At Fort Vancouver some of our most illustrious military leaders have served. George B. McClellan, U. S. Grant, Philip Sheridan, Winfield Scott, Nelson A. Miles, John M. Schofield, Alfred Pleasanton, E. O. C. Ord, O. O. Howard, John Gibbon, William Harney, John E. Wool, George Crook, Frederick Funston, and many others have been stationed there in time past.

In recognition of the historical importance of Fort Vancouver and of the local consequence of the celebration to be held at that point in commemoration of the one hundredth anniversary of its founding, the Committee on Military Affairs is of opinion that the War Department should be authorized to cooperate in the manner provided by the bill.

